United Nations S/2012/15

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 January 2012
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 6 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our letters regarding current events in Syria, including the letter dated 23 December 2011 (S/2011/797), which has yet to be issued two weeks after it was sent, concerning the two suicide terrorist attacks of 23 December 2011 that targeted two Government institutions in the capital, Damascus, killing and wounding dozens of persons, we would like to convey to you the following information:

On the morning of Friday, 6 January 2012, for the second time within a short period, the capital of Syria, Damascus, was attacked by a suicide bomber. The attack targeted an area near an elementary school in the Maydan district of Damascus that is densely populated and where there are many passers-by, killing and wounding dozens of persons. Ongoing investigations indicate that a terrorist blew himself up at a traffic signal in the above-mentioned area, with a view to terrorizing citizens and killing the greatest possible number of persons. The preliminary death toll from this terrorist attack stands at 26 citizens, most of whom are civilians. An investigation is under way to identify the remains of 15 other persons. A further 63 persons, including civilians and police officers, who were in the area were injured. The terrorist bombing also caused great damage to nearby vehicles, stores and other buildings, including the Maydan police station and the Hassan al-Hakim School.

Such terrorist bombings are a very dangerous escalation designed to terrorize and kill innocent Syrian citizens in a random and savage manner; they are part of a vicious campaign against Syria carried out by certain foreign parties in particular, which are striving by every means not to achieve reform but, rather, to impede the comprehensive reform programme that is currently being implemented in Syria by undermining stability and security, fomenting violence and spreading terrorism in Syria through an unprecedented inflammatory political and media campaign against Syria, and providing money, arms and media and logistical support to those armed terrorist groups that abduct and kill civilians and military personnel indiscriminately, rape women, plant explosives in roads and in densely populated areas, obstruct public highways, bombard public and private institutions and attack Syria's vital installations. Those attacks have included the bombing of passenger trains, railway tracks, oil and gas pipelines and electrical plants. Ever since events began in Syria, we have taken unremitting care to share with you information in that regard.

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We would like to affirm that the continued occurrence of such terrorist acts and the targeting of innocent civilians, including women, children and the elderly, represent a challenge to the entire international community and a flagrant violation of human rights and all international norms and instruments. Such acts and those responsible for them must be condemned and denounced in the strongest possible language by all Powers and Arab and international humanitarian organizations. In that connection, we would like to point out to you that turning a blind eye to such terrorist acts and those responsible and failing to condemn them unequivocally will be interpreted as an attempt to provide cover and indirect support for the continuation of such criminal acts against the Syrian State and public and private property, and mean that those responsible are not held accountable or prosecuted. We call on all to shoulder their responsibilities, in particular those who speak of countering terrorism and eliminating its root causes even as they openly encourage, sponsor and protect those who commit acts of terrorism.

In conclusion, the Syrian Arab Republic requests that you condemn in the clearest and strongest possible language the acts being committed by armed terrorist groups in Syria, including the criminal act of terrorism that was committed on the morning of Friday, 6 January 2012, in the capital, Damascus.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations